

A L E T T E R

Writ by Mijñ Heer *Fagel*, PENSIONER to the Great and Mighty Lords, the States of *Holland* and *Westfriesland*.

Writ in French on the Ninth of April, N. Stile. 1688.

To the Marquis of *Albeville*, Envoy Extraordinary of His Majesty of Great Brittain, to the High and Mighty the States General of the United Provinces.

To which is prefixt an Account in *Dutch* of the Letter writ by Mijñ Heer *Fagel* on the fourth of *November* in the year 1687. to Mr. *Stewart*, written by the said Pensioner, and published by his Order.

Printed at the *Hague* by *James Scheltus*, Printer to the States of *Holland* and *Westfriesland*.

Translated out of the *French* and *Dutch* into *English*.



R E A D E R,

I *Gasper Fagel*, having the honour to serve the Great and Mighty States of *Holland* and *Westfriesland* in the Quality of their Pensioner, cannot any longer delay the giving the Publick this account, that in the Month of *July* last 1687. I was very earnestly desired by Mr. *James Stewart* Advocate, to write to him what were the Prince and Princess of *Orange's* Thoughts concerning the Repealing of the *TEST* and the Penal Laws: but I was not easily brought to put Pen to Paper on this subject, because I knew that their Highnesses thoughts, did not agree with his Majesties: so that the Writing in such matters was extream tender: therefore I delayed it till I was more earnestly pressed to it; and it was intimated to me, that those pressing desires were made by His Majesties Knowledge and Allowance: at last I did according to the mind of their Highnesses, draw the Letter which I writ to Mr. *Stewart* on the fourth of *November*: I transmitted the

draught of my Letter to their Highnesses, and received upon it their order to send it, after that their Highnesses had read and examined the draught in *Dutch*, together with the Translation of it into *English*: upon all this I sent my Letter to Mr. *Stewart* in the beginning of *November*, and received an Answer from him, by which he signified, that he had shewed my Letter, both to the Earl of *Melfort* and to the Earl of *Sunderland*, and that it was also shewed to the King himself; nor did he in the least intimate to me that it was desired that I should make any great secret of it, or take care that it should not become publick: That Letter, was afterwards about the middle of *January*, printed in *England*; and upon its coming over into this Country, it has occasioned a great deal of noise; yet I have not hitherto concerned my self in all those discourses, or in all that has been Writ and Printed upon it. But have let all people reason or write concerning it as they pleased; But I have lately

seen an *English Book*, entitled, *Parliamentum Pacificum*, printed at London, in this present year, by virtue of a *Licence* signed by the Earl of *Sunderland*: in which that *Letter* writ by me, is not only called a *Pretended Piece*, but it is said, that that which I had set forth in my *Letter* concerning the *Prince* and *Princesses* thoughts, relating to the Repeal of the *Test* and the *Penal Laws* was advanced by me without the knowledge of their *Highnesses*, at least of Her *Royal Highness*: and by this the *Reader* may be perhaps wrought on to believe either that my *Letter* was a *Pretended Piece*, and *Forgery*, or that I writ it without Order from their *Highnesses*; since it may indeed seem scarce probable, that the Author could have obtained a *Licence* for the Printing of a Paper that contains such falsehoods in it, which the *Court* and in particular the Earl of *Sunderland* could not but know to be such: for they know well both that the *Letter* was writ by me, and that I was ordered to write it by their *Highnesses*: therefore I could not delay any longer to undeceive the world. Thus I am obliged to publish this account of the matter. I have still in my possession, those *Letters* by which I was earnestly pressed to write the forementioned *Letter*, in which it is expressly said, that they were writ by His Majesties Knowledge and Allowance: I have also that *Letter* in which no less is given that my *Letter* had come to hand, and that it was shewed not only to the Earls of *Nottingham* and *Sunderland*, but to His Majesty himself, so that they know well that it is no *Pretended Piece*. I have also by me the *Letter*, by which His *Highness* desired me to send my *Letter* to Mr. *Stewart*, together with the *English* Translation of it: all which I will

Print, if I find it necessary. So that it is a gross abuse put on the world, to say that my *Letter* is a *Forgery*, since as it was truly writ by me, so it has been avowed by me ever since it first appeared: And it is a base Calumny and Slander, to say, that I writ that account of their *Highnesses* thoughts concerning the Repeal of the *Test* and the *Penal Laws* without their knowledge; which appears so much the more evident, since it cannot be imagined, that their *Highnesses* would not have expressed their just resentments, at so high and extravagant a presumption as I should have committed, if I had written any account of their thoughts, without their knowledge: All this has obliged me for my own Vindication to write the following *Letter*, to the Marquis of *Abrville*, His Majesties Envoy to the States: because I have had much discourse with him concerning the writing of that *Letter*, long before this Book called *Parliamentum Pacificum* was published: but I will not engage myself any further to examine the reasons of the Author of that Pamphlet: for I know well, that in those matters the world is divided into very different sentiments, and that men are apt to approve or censure such things, according to their preconceived Opinions: Of all this I thought it necessary to advertise my Reader, and to Order this account of my *Letter* to be Printed by a known Printer from a Copy signed by my hand:

At the Hague the Tenth of April, 1688.

GASPER FAGEL.

A Copy of the *L E T T E R* Writ by Mijⁿ Heer *Fagel*,
to the *Marquis of Albeville*, bearing date the
Ninth of *April*, 1688.

S I R.

THere has appeared here an *English Book* Printed at *London* this year, Entitled *Parliamentum Pacificum*, with an *Imprimatur* before it signed by the Earl of *Sunderland*: of which I cannot but complain to you how averse soever I am from all things of that kind. It is affirmed in that Book, that the *Letter* which I writ to Mr. *Stewart* the Fourth of *November* last year, concerning the *Test* and the *Penal Laws* is a *Pretended Piece*, or at least that I writ it without *Order*; and without the consent of their *Highnesses*, and more particularly of her *Royal Highness* the *PRINCESS OF ORANGE*: I will not engage my self to examine and refute the particulars that are in that *Book*, for that were as unfeatable to the Character I bear, as it is to my own Inclinations: which do both concur in making it unfit for me to enter upon a publick dispute in things of this nature: But you cannot think it strange, if I desire you to call to mind, that it was not of my own head that I was engaged to write that *Letter* which is now called in question: It was far from that: I was pressed by earnest and often repeated Instances for the space of four Months, that were made to me in His *Majesties* name, to write upon that subject; which at last prevailed with me; yet I went about it with all the caution that a matter of such Importance required; and I took care not to write one single period in that whole *Letter*, that I apprehended might give His *Majesty* the least offence: yet after all I see this *Letter* is treated as an *Imposture*, in a *Book* published by Authority: tho' both His *Majesty* and the whole *Court* know the truth of this matter, which *Sir*, I have in particular owned to your self, as being the *Kings Minister* here: as I have also owned it to all that have spoke to me upon the *Subject*. But that which troubles me more is, that I am accused for having made use of their *Highnesses* name, and in particular of her *Royal Highnesses* without their *Order*, as if I were capable of so infamous a Forgery, and of an

Imposture so unworthy of any Man of honour, and that chiefly in a matter of so great Consequence. *Sir*, You must not think it strange, if in this I appeal to your self, to that which you know, and which you have often owned to me your self: that their *Highnesses*, and particularly Her *Royal Highness*, have often expressed to you their thoughts concerning the *Test* and the *Penal Laws*, conform to that which I write in their names: which you owned to me, that you had writ to the *Court of England*, long before I writ that *Letter*, and that therefore you could not imagin upon what reason the *Court* could press me so much as they did to write to Mr. *Stewart*. I do assure you, I find my self very little concerned in what is said in this late *Book*, or in any other of that kind: I foresaw well enough from the beginning that I should be attacked upon the account of my *Letter*: In which it was Indifferent to me what any man thought of it. But this *Book* being published by the Authority of a *Licence* granted by the Earl of *Sunderland* *President of His Majesties Privy Council and Secretary of State*, I find my honour is so touched in it, that I am obliged to undeceive the world, of the false accusation with which I am charged in it. And I thought *Sir*, that I could not do this better, than by Writing to you, that are His *Majesties Minister*, and who know perfectly the truth of the matter, that is now called in question: and therefore I desire you will write concerning it, to the Earl of *Sunderland*: I believe he has not seen or at least that he has not considered the passages of that *Book* that do concern me. For I am sure if he had done that, he would never have *Licensed* it: for my Lord *Sunderland* knows, as well as any man alive does, that my *Letter* to Mr. *Stewart* is no *Pretended Piece*: he himself saw the *Letter*, or at least the *English Translation* of it that I sent along with it: And he could not but know likewise, both by your *Letters*, and by what you told by word of mouth, that their *Highnesses*, and in particular

Heer

Her Royal Highness, have often owned to you, their sense of the *Tift* and the *Penal Laws*, conform to that which I writ in their name to Mr. *Stewart*. So I do perswade my self, that My Lord *Sunderland* will have the Justice and Goodness to recall this *Licence*, which has been obtained of him by a surprise: and that the Author of so manifest and so Injurious a Calumny, shall be punished as he deserveth. I will not likewise conceal from you, the design I have of publishing an account of all that has passed in this matter, as well as of this *Letter*,

which I take the liberty now to write to you, in which my design is not to enter into any dispute concerning the matter it self, much less to offend any person whatsoever, but only to cover my Honour which is struck at by this atrocious Calumny.

I am Sir your most humble

and most obedient Servant,

G A S P E R F A G E L.

To all which this Attestation of the Printer is added.

I the under subscribing James Scheltus Printer in Ordinary to The Great and Mighty Lords the States of Holland and Westfriesland, dwelling in the Hague, do Declare and Attest by these presents, that the Writing here published, together with the Copy of the Letter Writ in French to the Marquis of Alberville Envoy Extraordinary of His Majesty of Great Brittain to the States, were delivered into my hands in order to their being Printed by Mijn Heer Gasper Fagel, Pensioner to the abovenamed Lords and States of Holland and Westfriesland, and that I have Printed them by His express Order,

At the Hague the Tenth of April, 1688.

J. SCHELTUS